

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	4:08CR3053
vs.)	
)	PRELIMINARY ORDER
KENNETH E. WITT,)	OF FORFEITURE
)	
Defendant.)	

NOW ON THIS 8th day of September, 2008, this matter comes on before the Court upon the United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture. The Court reviews the record in this case and, being duly advised in the premises, finds as follows:

1. The Defendant has entered into a Plea Agreement, whereby he has agreed to plead guilty to Counts I and II of said Information. Count I of said Indictment charges the Defendant with being a felon in possession of a firearm, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). Count II of said Indictment charges the Defendant with using a Ruger, Mini 14, .223 caliber rifle, serial no. 196-19818, a Winchester, model 94AE, .45 Colt, lever action rifle, serial no. 6438894, and a Ruger, model new model, Blackhawk, .45 Colt revolver, serial no. 47-83909, on the basis they were firearms involved or used in the knowing commission of the offense charged in Count I.

2. By virtue of said plea of guilty, the Defendant forfeits his interest in the subject properties, and the United States should be entitled to possession of said properties, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

3. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture should be sustained.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

A. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is hereby sustained.

B. Based upon Count II of the Information and the Defendant's plea of guilty, the United States is hereby authorized to seize a Ruger, Mini 14, .223 caliber rifle, serial no. 196-19818, a Winchester, model 94AE, .45 Colt, lever action rifle, serial no. 6438894, and a Ruger, model new model, Blackhawk, .45 Colt revolver, serial no. 47-83909.

C. The Defendant's interest in said properties is hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C., § 853(n)(1).

D. The aforementioned forfeited properties are to be held by the United States in its secure custody and control.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C., § 853(n)(1), the United States of America forthwith shall publish notice of this Order, Notice of Publication evidencing the United States' intent to dispose of the properties in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the Defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the subject forfeited properties must file a Petition with the court within thirty days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Said published notice shall state the Petition referred to in Paragraph E., above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the Petitioner's alleged interest in the properties, shall be signed by the Petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the Petitioner's right, title or interest in the subject properties and any additional facts supporting the Petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the properties subject to this Order as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.

H. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C., § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

ORDERED this 8th day of September, 2008.

BY THE COURT:

s/ *RICHARD G. KOPF*, JUDGE
United States District Court